



Memories of Yesterday



By 1889, as George Barrell was telling us last week in his book *THIRTY YEARS AT SEA*, the land adjoining the old private school on Route 3-A (now Frank Hoyt's house) had been reclaimed and what had once been a marsh was farmland. Gone was the barn that housed Dr. A's horse which "had a way, when the Doctor stopped too long in a house, to walk home on his own account, sometimes from several miles in the woods." It's "wind-vane" was a codfish, and attached to the barn was a sleigh-house, "for snows here scale the fences." Barrell complains that this barn "was torn down by these utilitarians."

He said he missed the old hen houses "with high roosts to keep the skunks and minks out." He also missed the pig pen, "graced with a raised platform, and from it this much abused creature had a shelter, with straw in it, that no northeast storm could reach, and that a benighted tramp would be glad to get into." Yep, pigs lead a dog's life on some farms in those days.

Gone was the peat swamp, "from which cartloads of this fuel were taken." In its place Barrell found "great trees, whose tops reached the brow of the hill, so luxuriant had nature been in these uncultivated stretches; and I could hardly conceive how the scenery, the old landmarks, the very topography, could be so greatly changed, and that vegetation had so wantonly taken possession of, these intervening years."

A farmer told Barrell that "with a little top-dressing, he wanted no better soil than that of Duxbury."

How did the natives of Duxbury live around 1889, after the sun of shipbuilding had set? Barrell tells us next week.

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COUPLES COMMUNITY CLUB

The Club enjoyed a Christmas party on Saturday evening, Dec. 16 at the Firemen's Hall on High Street.

There was a beautiful Christmas tree and Santa Claus gave each member a gift. All enjoyed singing Christmas Carols. The refreshment table was decorated with a big Santa Claus and "Frosty the Snowman."

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